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April 6, 2018

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Jefferson Dr. SW
Washington, D.C. 20024

Dear Secretary Perdue,

For decades, China has taken advantage of the American principals of free and open trade. In return they have not only limited access to their own developing markets, but have also systematically engaged in unfair trade practices that have done great harm to Americans and American industries. I am encouraged to finally have a President who will stand up to the Chinese and hold them accountable for their manipulative and underhanded trade practices.

In response to the Administration's recent trade actions, the Chinese have singled out one of America's greatest assets for retaliation, our farmers. I understand the pressing need to hold the Chinese accountable, but am gravely concerned that American agriculture will be forced to shoulder the burden of this trade dispute.

These trade actions could have a devastating impact on America's farmers, and have long term repercussions. Therefore I urge you to quickly use every available means to protect America's farmers from being adversely impacted by these ongoing trade negotiations. Urgent action is needed to instill confidence in the rural economy and to protect America's thin green line.

I stand ready to work with you in any way I can to ensure that America's farmers can continue to lead the world.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. Abraham'.

Ralph Abraham, M.D.
Member of Congress